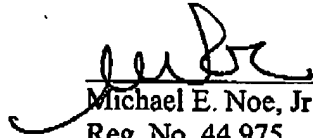


REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the suggestions offered by the Examiner to overcome the objections to Claims 12-14 and 22-23 cited in the present office action. Accordingly, Claim 1 was rewritten with the language of canceled Claim 12, and independent Claim 18 was rewritten with the language of canceled Claim 23, including all of the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to Hitachi Global Storage Technologies' Deposit Account Number 50-2587.

Respectfully submitted,



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